

# STATE WATER PLAN TASK FORCE MEETING

September 19, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Web-Ex Meeting Minutes

## **Task Force Members Present:**

IDNR–OWR: Loren Wobig, Wes Cattoor, Terra McParland , Megan McKinney, Wei Han

IDNR–ORC: Brian Metzke, Brennan Caputo

ISWS: Laura Keefer, David Kristovich, Walt Kelly,

IEPA: Scott Twait, Jeff Edstrom, Gary Bingenheimer, Christine Davis, Michael Brown

IDOA: Michael Woods

IDPH: Brian Cox

IEMA: Zachary Krug, Sam Al-Basha

IDOT: BJ Murray

IWRC: Yu-Feng Forrest Lin

Agencies not in attendance: IDNR–OMM, DCEO, IPCB,

## **Non-Members Present**

USGS: Kelly Warner

The Meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. The meeting agenda, meeting recording and minutes are posted on the State Water Plan Task Force (SWPTF) website. The website also contains general information about the State Water Plan’s history and current activity.

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StateWaterPlanTaskForce.aspx>

## **Welcome:**

Loren opened up the meeting and welcomed everyone. Loren pointed out that we are ready to wrap this thing figuratively with a bow and be done and submit it to the stakeholders. Loren stated he would need to hop off the call as he needs to travel out of state today and will rejoin the call.

## **Items Needed from Topic Leaders:**

Wes said that to date we have received zero emails and 1 comment regarding the public outreach. He suggested we jump right into the agenda of items starting with “needs from topic leaders”. Terra said she does have a list of things she needs and will be reaching out to the critical topic leaders after the call.

1. We are trying to compile acknowledgements and even if they aren't active now, but were in the beginning, we'd like the names of people who have given any input for their section. Send your lists to Terra and Wes.
2. Terra said we do need more photos for this report, there are some place holder photos, but she'd like a lot more. Please send her more with who took the photo, where it is and the date.
3. Terra presented her Summary of Measurable Recommendations. We have 13 topics, and Terra has received 6 responses to date. Be thinking about your recommendation and what is the outcome? These will not be published in the report but they will be used for tracking and for status reports as we move forward. As discussed later, we will be presenting status reports and these measurement milestones will be tracked. The Sustainability section has good examples of how to address the measurement questions. Terra focused on Navigation for a moment to illustrate it where it isn't clear on what is being measured. Terra reminded everyone that the OneDrive is there, and we can all view it, and you can share things there to her. She asked for peer review. She will resend the link to the OneDrive.
4. The fourth item is the stakeholder comments. These have been sent out previously and need to be reviewed by each committee and addressed in your section if they apply. These will be sent out by Terra again for any responses. It is ok if you don't address a comment but you should be able to explain why not.
5. The last item is there are sections that have written comments and track changes. Terra will be sending everyone their individual section to remind people of what others had commented on their sections. Then you can compare that to the draft report that was published and decide if you want to change anything or if there were changes made that your group didn't agree to.

#### **Other items:**

We haven't received a lot of public comments, which Terra attributes to us doing our due diligence. She would like to do one more publicity push. She'll send out an email that you can forward to your committees and stakeholders to do a final request for public comments about a week before the deadline. To illustrate that progress is already being completed on some of the recommendations, Loren said he will be presenting the IWIC to the State Water Survey Advisory Board and some legislation will be presented. Terra points out that the exhibits in cross cutting aren't exactly as she wants them and is open to more ideas. Terra says Loren presented two of his integrated water management recommendations with a price tag on them. Is it ok to have amounts of funding for only these two items? Wes suggested leaving them as currently shown but recognizes not everyone can come up with a dollar amount and therefore, if they are available, they can be placed in the recommendation column and not fund type column of the recommendation table.

#### **Agency Release Coordination:**

Wes said Loren is starting to draft the cover letter to introduce the report to the General Assembly. It will also include a support letter that will be sent around to all the Agencies. Wes thinks that we may want to do a public release announcement and he wanted to get feedback from other agencies on if they were going to be putting out a public release announcement and how much lead time they need? DNR takes about a week.

Christine said she doesn't think there are other steps at IEPA that are more than what we do at IDNR. Should we involve the Lt. Gov or the Governor's office? Something more akin to a presentation than just a news release. She thinks we could link it with another project that is being supported by the State Water Plan. That way we could show that the water plan is being implemented and how we can make it look more exciting and get people to fund it and read it. Loren says he can check in with the Governor's office or the River's Coordinating Council and see what options are out there for presentation. Terra wonders if we should put together a synopsis and if we do present it, we'd like a synopsis to present. Wes asked is that like a fact sheet or is it just a single summary of all the recommendations? Terra says she sees it including both perhaps with some graphics from the report conclusion about how many needs funding or which agencies are involved.

### **Website:**

The next thing we need to discuss is how we want to share information moving forward. Wes brings up the State Water Plan Task force website on DNR. It seems like it's very focused on developing the plan, so how do we transition to enacting the Plan. Can we get a standalone website? Until we get the IWIC website should it be on DNR or somewhere else? Wes' idea was utilizing the measurement table that was shown earlier but perhaps it should be shown to the public so they can see how we're coming on the recommendations? David suggested a bar like the fundraising bar which you would fill up until you get to 100% but that might not be applicable for some of the recommendations. But perhaps a bar at the top showing how far we've come.

Terra says the report indicates that we were going to be using a status tracking table and there was an example in the report which was shared on the screen. Christine suggests like every 6 months pdf of the table so the public can check and see what is happening twice a year. Quarterly may not show enough direct progress. The report said annually we'd do a formal status report of what was completed or what is still pending and coming along. The report also says we'll also publish the status updates on the website after our Task Force quarterly meetings. Christine thinks another column could be used to report a change or an update or even leave it blank to show no activity. Terra thinks an easy add. Wes is less in favor because that allows us to "kick the can", other than if there's no change there's no change. Wes says we'll follow the approach as outlined in the report but maybe revisit this if we see it's not working.

Christine suggested the recent task force meeting details higher up on the page for pre-release minutes and post release minutes. She doesn't want it to get lost.

Terra suggested pulling other IT people to help archive the webpage. Loren says we have some new contacts at DoIT to add some bells and whistles to the website.

Wes circled back around to how should each topic be presented on the website? Should each topic have its own webpage or should it be on each individual lead Agency's page? At least until the IWIC is up and running. Wes kicked it back to each topic lead how they may want their information presented.

### **Wrap up**

Wes said public outreach ends Sept 30. We will meet again in October. Terra will send out some an email listing the outstanding items needed by the Topic Leaders. After changes are made to incorporate

public and stakeholder comments, she will send the draft final report so people can take a final look at it before the next meeting.

**General:**

- Project Schedule:
  - Public Comments due September 30, 2022
  - Task Force final edits due October 15, 2022 (addressing public and stakeholder comments)
  - Final Draft sent to TF on October 21, 2022
  - SWPTF meeting at the end of October
  - Final Report published November

**Schedule:** The schedule will be revised and posted on the website.

**Next Meeting:** It was determined that the next meeting will be set for **October at 9:00 A.M.** to be held via Web-Ex. Wes will send out a poll to determine the best date.

The meeting was concluded at 10:11 AM.